

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
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GOV. RITTER REQUESTS DISASTER DECLARATION FROM SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FOR ALAMOSA BUSINESSES

(DENVER) -- Governor Ritter today asked the Small Business Administration (SBA) for an Economic Injury Disaster Declaration for the County of Alamosa and its surrounding communities due to the economic impact of a recent salmonella outbreak. This would allow eligible businesses impacted by the disaster to apply for low-interest loans through the SBA.

The City and County of Alamosa issued a joint declaration of emergency on March 20, which ordered residents and business not to drink, prepare food, wash or shower with the municipal water until the system could be decontaminated.

Governor Ritter signed an Executive Order declaring an emergency in Alamosa on March 21, which provided \$300,000 in funds from the Disaster Emergency Fund to pay for the response effort related to this disaster and activated the National Guard to assist with operations and distribution of water to residents in the town.

An estimated 60-100 businesses have suffered economic injury because they either had to close their doors or limit their ability to provide normal operations.

If the declaration is granted, small businesses may apply for loans up to \$1.5 million if they suffered substantial economic injury from the disaster. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. These loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

The SBA offers these low-interest loans with a maximum term of 30 years. They will determine the amount of economic injury and terms of each loan based on the financial circumstances of the borrower.

As of today, 343 cases of Salmonella have been reported. Of the reported cases, 91 are confirmed by lab testing. There have been 13 hospitalizations from among the 90 confirmed cases.

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